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Diana's driver said to have been legally drunk

LONDON (Reuters) — Princess Diana's driver in the high-speed crash that killed her should not have been driving, because he was over the legal alcohol limit, the Paris prosecutor's office said yesterday.

The analysis of his blood showed a concentration of alcohol at an illicit level, a statement said.

Judicial sources said the level was about 1.70 grams per liter of blood, a level which medical experts say can cause staggering and double vision and make it impossible to drive.

The driver and Diana's companion Dodi Fayed were also killed in the crash in the early hours of Sunday in a tunnel close to the Seine River.

Buckingham Palace announced that the "people's princess" would be honored at a funeral service on Saturday in Westminster Abbey, the church used for centuries by the monarchy in times of joy and sorrow.

Last night no decision had been made about who would represent Israel at the service.

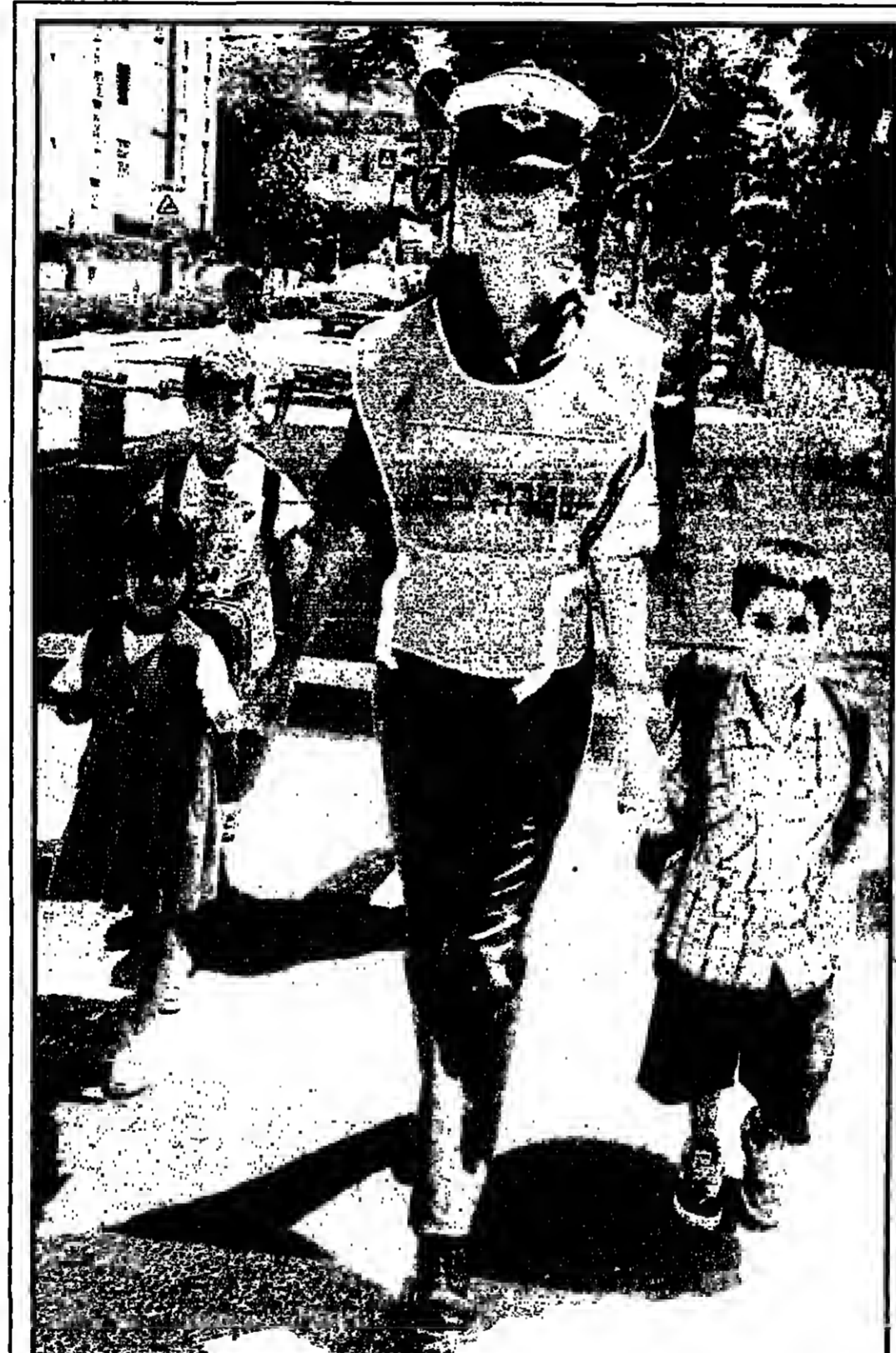
Army Radio reported that Sara Netanyahu may attend. Her body will then be taken to the Spencer family's estate in Althorp, central England, for a private burial.

Brushfire tragedy claims fifth soldier

By DAVID RUDGE

Sgt. Shumato Kasahoun, critically injured in the brushfire tragedy in south Lebanon last Thursday, died of his wounds in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday.

Kasahoun's death brought to five the soldiers killed in the blaze, which followed a clash in which the soldiers shot and killed four gunmen from the Amal Shi'ite movement.



Marching off to school
A military policewoman helps two children cross the street on their way to their first day of school in Tel Aviv yesterday.

The IDF board of inquiry, headed by Maj. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, is continuing its investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, fighting in the security zone continued yesterday, with a South Lebanese Army soldier seriously wounded in a long-range Hizbullah attack on a SLA position. He was evacuated to Rambam. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Israel team leaves for Washington to prepare for Albright visit

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Israeli officials leave for the US today to prepare for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit next week.

The delegation is led by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and includes the prime minister's policy adviser, Uzi Arad, and the head of Foreign Minister David Levy's bureau, Yitval Rotem. A Palestinian team is already in Washington on a similar mission.

An Israeli source believes the Clinton Administration is under heavy pressure to get the Middle East peace process back on track. Apprehension about the consequences of a possible collapse of peace talks is heightened by fears that the Dayton Agreement that ended the Bosnian conflict could fall over the next year.

PM asked to seek US help for Azzam

By DAVID RUDGE, JAY BUSHINSKY and SARAH HONIG

The family of Azzam Azzam is pressing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to raise his case with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she visits next week.

Azzam was convicted by an Egyptian security court Sunday of spying for Israel and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labor.

Villagers shocked by verdict, Page 4

The verdict has shocked the close-knit Druse community in Israel and residents of his home village in the Galilee.

Appeals to Albright to intercede on a humanitarian basis. Netanyahu stopped short yesterday of declaring Azzam a prisoner of war, which would make his family eligible for special aid.

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IDF to allow in 4,000 Palestinian workers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF eased a month-long closure in the West Bank and Gaza yesterday, and said the further easing of restrictions would be based on daily security assessments of the situation.

The announcement appears to be geared at improving relations with the Palestinians before the arrival of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright next week. Palestinians dismissed the step as insufficient and demanded that the closure be lifted completely.



A decade on Prozac

Ten years since the first prescription was filled, much remains unknown about the long-term effects of America's favorite anti-depressant

By JAMIE TALAN

Depression didn't settle quietly into Mary's life. It tormented virtually every moment of her day, making even the smallest household duty an uncomfortable and tearful task. It frightened her into wakefulness night after night. It left her confused, scared, defeated.

"I felt as if I were drowning," the 49-year-old New York woman recalled recently.

That was a year ago. Now, things are different. The clinical depression that clouded Mary's life for more than a year has lifted. Her energy has returned. She smiles. She gives credit to a tiny pill that she began taking last year in an ongoing study at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Had Mary suffered these classical signs of depression even as recently as the mid-1980s, doctors would not have so readily prescribed a pill to lift her mood. She may have spent years on an analyst's couch with little relief of her symptoms. The anti-depressants available then were fraught with troublesome side effects and carried the danger that depressed people could overdose on them and commit suicide.

But 10 years ago Prozac was born and with it a change in how depression was viewed: not as a complex psychological problem to

be treated with psychotherapy, but as a symptom that might be eliminated with some adjustments in brain chemistry. Prozac is the first generation of drugs called selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, or SSRIs, which help the brain make better use of the neurochemical serotonin. Depressed people seem to have an imbalance in how their brains regulate serotonin.

But as prescriptions for anti-depressants surge - tens of millions are written a year now - experts are working hard to figure out just how safe it is for millions of people to be taking these medicines for the long term. The current theory, based on following formerly depressed people, is that staying on medicine prevents future episodes. (And patients can't overdose on SSRIs.) But experts also point to convincing evidence that certain forms of psychotherapy can help brain chemistry right itself.

Brain scan studies at Washington University in St. Louis of patients undergoing cognitive therapy for depression show the brain regions normalize with talk therapy just as they do with medicines. And there is new evidence that even monthly psychotherapy sessions may help prevent relapse just as effectively as anti-depressants.

"There are dangerous precedents in the way that anti-depressant drugs are being perceived," said William Danton, a psychologist at

the University of Nevada Medical School and co-author with psychologist David Antonuccio of an upcoming paper in the journal *Behavioral Therapy*. "There's this no-fault idea that these are brain imbalances, and we're disconnecting depression and anxiety from life experiences."

Approved for the treatment of clinical depression, Prozac - chemically known as fluoxetine - continues to be the fastest-selling anti-depressant. Managed-care companies are reimbursing 80 percent for psychiatric visits to obtain prescription refills, compared with 50% for psychotherapy visits.

"Managed-care companies are making decisions that Prozac works better and is cheaper than cognitive therapy," said Danton. "It doesn't work better, and it's not cheaper."

In their latest study, the Nevada researchers factored in relapse rate, the costs of being depressed and the effects on those who dropped out of treatment and found that SSRIs such as Prozac, Zoloft and Paxil are actually costing managed-care companies 33% more than psychotherapy, Danton said.

The case of prescribing a drug with side effects no more troubling than temporary nausea, sleep disruptions or loss of libido has led to the family doctor's becoming a new overseer of mental problems.

Seventy percent of prescriptions for anti-depressants are now written by primary-care physicians. What that means to psychologists like Danton is that these physicians know of no other way to treat depression.

Some experts say Prozac is now viewed as a drug that can be used by almost anyone to help elevate his or her mood at unsettling moments.

More than 17 million Americans have used Prozac since it was first approved in 1987, and its manufacturer - Eli Lilly and Co. - has announced a large advertising campaign designed to increase its customer base. The prescriptions continue to climb, doubling even since 1990, with 20 million prescriptions last year alone.

"These medicines have revolutionized psychiatry," said Dr. Steven Paul of Lilly's research division for the central nervous system. "In many ways these medicines have helped de-stigmatize depression.... People don't feel that they are on some kind of mind-altering drug."

Dr. Donald Klein, director of research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute in Manhattan and a professor of psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, has prescribed many anti-depressants as they've entered the market and says that this generation of medi-

cines doesn't have any effect if a person isn't truly depressed. "It works only if there was a chemical imbalance in the brain that needed fixing," Klein said.

More and more, people are requesting Prozac as a panacea for life's emotional ills. "It's the desire for people to get back to life, to function," said Alan Clark, president of Lilly's US operations. The pharmaceutical company's hope, he said, is to reach people who may be suffering and not know they have depression.

Scientists estimate that 18 million people suffer severe depression each year, and one in every five people will experience a depressive episode in his or her lifetime.

The diagnosis can be made if a person experiences helplessness, loss of hope, sadness, crying, sleep or appetite disturbances, or difficulty concentrating for at least two straight weeks.

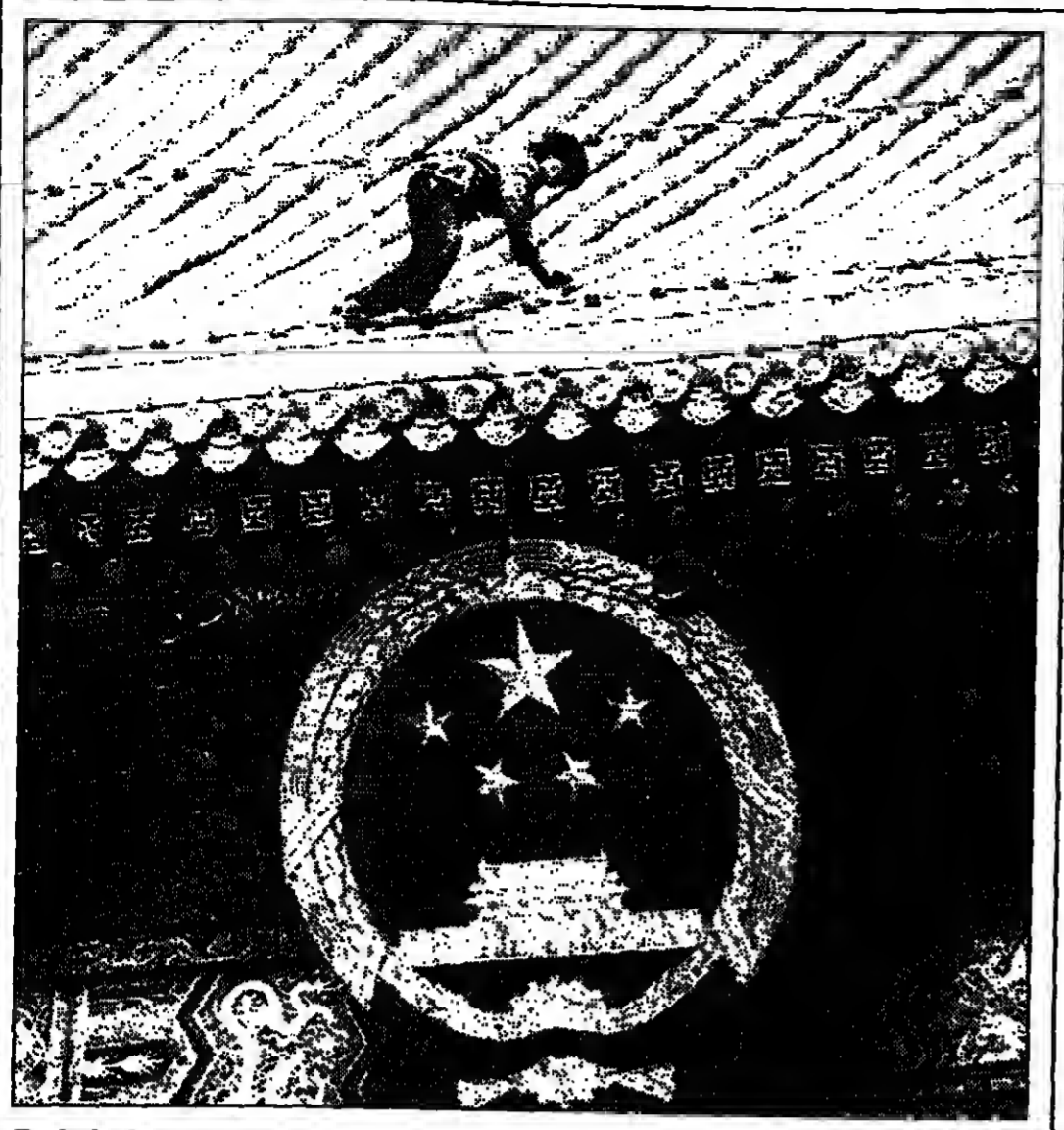
Some people believe Prozac has created a new generation of depressed patients, blurring the lines between clinical depression and personality quirks that leave some people naturally gloomy.

Dr. Peter Kramer, in his 1994 best seller, *Listening to Prozac*, examined the impact of the medicine on society's psyche and suggested it could alter the nature of the self, for example "lending the introvert the social skills of a salesman."

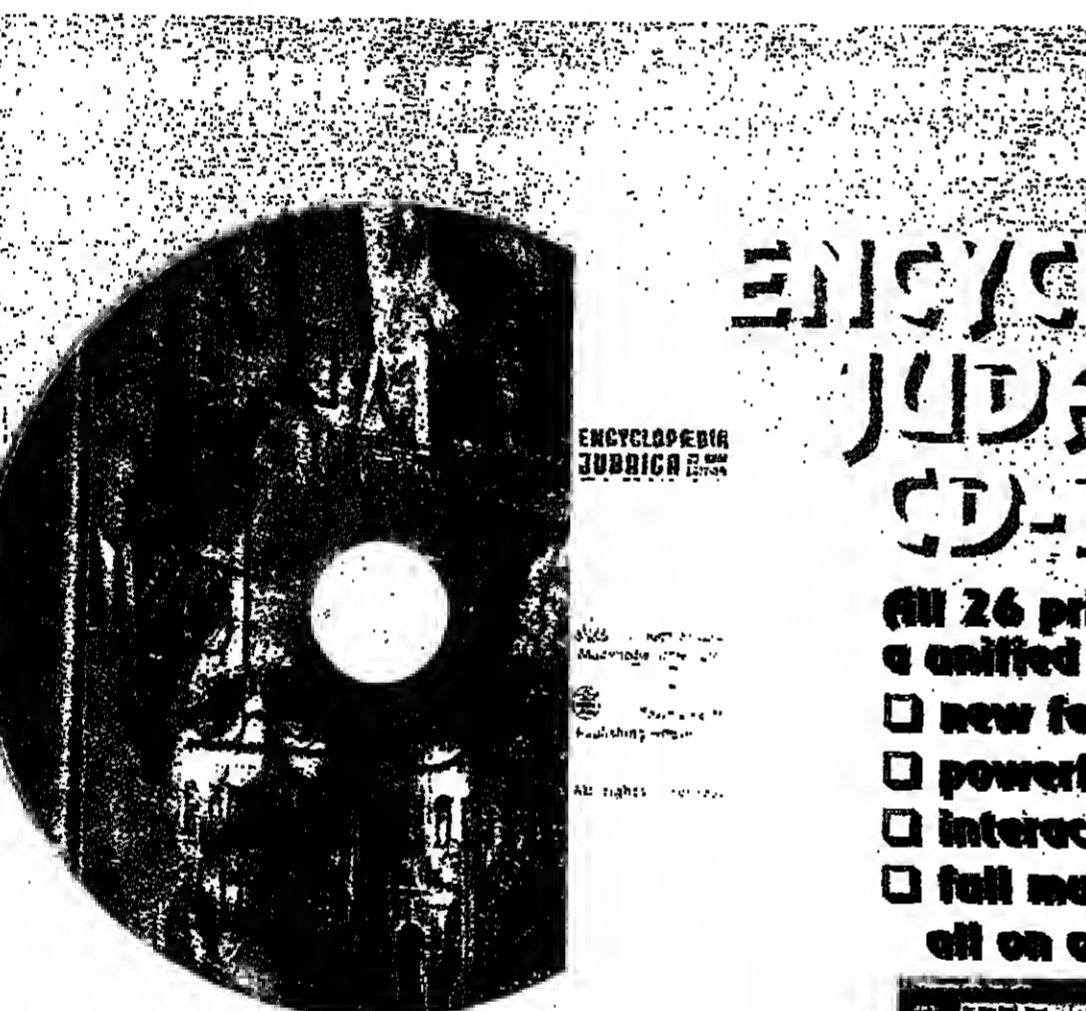
After a decade of use of Prozac and related drugs, several questions remain unanswered. How long should patients be treated? Does long-term use increase the chance of a relapse once the person stops taking the medicine? How common is relapse? Do these drugs lose their effectiveness over time as the body becomes used to them? What's the correct long-term dose? Under what conditions should a person stop taking medicine? And, finally, what is the role of psychotherapy in treating depression and preventing relapse?

"These medicines have helped us learn a lot about depression, but there is still so much we don't understand," said Dr. Martin Keller, chairman of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University's School of Medicine in Providence, Rhode Island. Keller is coordinating a trial at a dozen centers around the country that may help answer some of these questions. Funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb, makers of an SSRI called Serzone, this is the first large study comparing medication and therapy.

The study compares patients getting cognitive-behavior therapy to those on medicine, and a third arm of the study is testing whether a combination of both treatments will work even better than either alone. (Newsday)



Red alert
A Chinese worker repairs the roof of Beijing's Tiananmen Gate as part of a major clean-up operation to prepare the city for the 15th Communist Party Congress. The Congress decides changes among China's top leadership, and sets political and economic direction. (AP)



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Treating children

Many people accept the idea of placing a child on medicine to control unruly behavior. But medication, anti-depressant, and just watch the jaws drop.

"I felt parents treat depression as a no-brain disease," said Dr. Harold Koplewicz, director of the Child Study Center at New York University Medical Center. "Once they understand the context, I explain how the new anti-depressants have helped enormously in the treatment of anxiety and depression. It's not a 'feel-good' medicine. We're not drugging kids instead of figuring out the root cause of depression."

Koplewicz said the most important thing is making sure the child is correctly diagnosed. Today's debate is not about whether children can be depressed, but about the best way to treat them. Drugs, therapy or both?

The rigors of psychiatric drug research have seldom included children. Indeed, four out of five medicines listed in the Physician's Desk Reference have not been tested on younger people. (Once a drug is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, doctors can prescribe it to anybody.)

President Clinton recently announced a plan that would require drug companies to test whether medicines are safe and effective for children.

FDA officials also are concerned that the use of anti-depressants on children is on the rise, with little information available about that use. The agency is urging drug companies to start studies.

Also, the National Institute of Mental Health has just supported the opening of three child psychopharmacology centers - at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, Johns Hopkins Medical Institute and the University of Pittsburgh.

These centers will conduct medication studies on children with depression and anxiety disorders.

Dr. Peter Jensen, chief of the NIMH's child and adolescent research branch, said fewer than 500 children have participated in trials, and most of the studies were too small to show differences between drugs and placebos.

Still, in 1994, 200,000 prescriptions for Prozac and 300,000 for Zoloft were filled for children from 5 to 10 years old. Another 150,000 prescriptions for Zoloft and an equal amount for Prozac were filled for adolescents.

"The first large-scale study of Prozac in children is about to be published in the Archives of General Psychiatry," Dr. Graham Emslie of the University of Texas studied almost 100 children and found a significant difference between those taking Prozac for up to eight weeks and those swallowing a placebo. According to Emslie, 58 percent did well on medicine, compared with 33% on a placebo.

"This is what we've been waiting for," said NYU's Koplewicz. "Scientific proof to confirm what we've been seeing in our clinical practice with children."

The popular medicine's makers, Eli Lilly and Co., will use the data to petition the FDA to use the drug in children and adolescents.

So far, no drugs have been approved for depression in people under 18. But a few months ago, Georgia-based Solvay Pharmaceuticals received approval for Luvox, the first selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor, or SSRI, for obsessive-compulsive disorder in children. -J.T.

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Are the media out of control?

The death of Princess Diana might prove to be one of those seminal events that convince the public that the media have simply gone too far

By HOWARD KURTZ

Last May, Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger were briefly trapped in their Mercedes when two Fleet Street photographers in separate cars forced them off the road outside Los Angeles.

The men, Giles Harrison and Andrew O'Brien, were trying to get exclusive shots of the pregnant Shriver as she and her husband were taking their son to school. The photographers were charged with misdemeanors, and O'Brien with battery for shoving the school's principal.

The incident barely caused a ripple in today's jaded media culture. Paparazzi, after all, routinely and relentlessly pursue famous figures in search of pictures that can be marketed to the highest bidder.

But what was once widely considered international sport, or a mere hazard of fame, turned chillingly dangerous Saturday night in Paris, where a car accident killed Princess Diana and her friend Dodi Al Fayed as their driver raced to elude several paparazzi on motorcycles.

journalists, the death of the 36-year-old princess could become one of those seminal events that convince millions the media are out of control. The ongoing clash between those who wave the banner of freedom of the press and those who want to protect their private lives is perhaps the most visible part of a noisy debate over intrusive media behavior.

Diana's brother, Charles, the ninth Earl Spencer, said on Sunday that he always knew the press would kill her, and his comment suddenly seems less than hyperbolic. This was a woman who frequently complained she could not go to an exercise class—or, in one case, to her therapist—without a half-dozen shutterbugs snapping away.

THOSE WHO engage in such pursuits insist they are simply feeding the public appetite. Russell Turiak, a tabloid photographer in New York, photographed Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith's wedding in Aspen from a helicopter, and earned six figures for his shots of John Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette honeymooning in Turkey.

"My feeling is that I am the messenger," Turiak said. "What are you going to do here, kill the messenger? People buy the pictures. This fan-addict mentality, the hunger for the information— isn't the public then responsible?"

... The easiest person to blame is the guy out there taking the pictures." Besides, he said, "I have a mortgage."

The right to visual privacy was first asserted in the 1890s by a prominent Harvard professor, Samuel Warren, who was upset that photographers had invaded his daughter's wedding. Since then, according to Elliot King, a Loyola University media instructor, the courts have been reluctant to criminalize such behavior.

The original paparazzi were any more pictures of the former first lady.

Such legal tangles were rare before the birth of tabloid television shows in the mid-1980s. But as television greatly increased the market for such pictures, and the demand for ever more exposure of ever more celebrities, a growing number of stars have been fighting back.

Last year, actor George Clooney organized a boycott against the Paramount Pictures television group after one of its programs, on Martha's Vineyard. The first injury is said to have been upset.

Nor are business figures immune. Two U.S. Healthcare executives, Nancy Wolfson and Richard Wolfson, sued Inside Edition for invasion of privacy last year after its crew rented a boat to film the family through the curtains of their vacation home. The crew also used a van to follow a bodyguard driving the couple's three-year-old daughter to school.

A preliminary injunction was dropped after the program, which had already aired its story, agreed to take no more pictures of the couple.

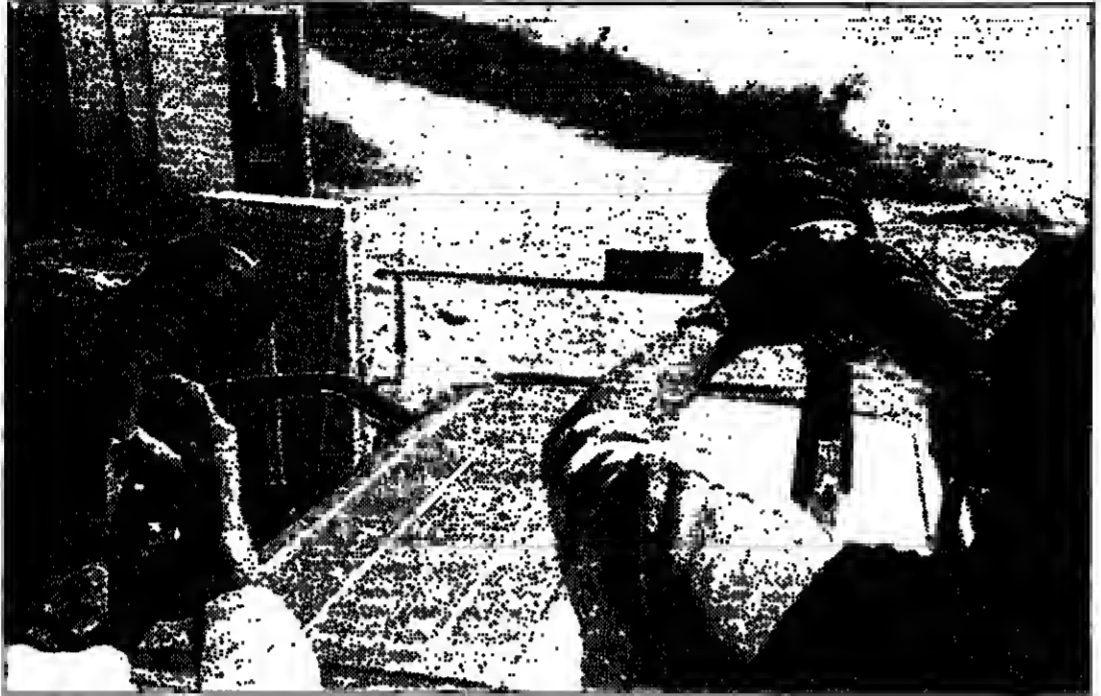
While some have sought legal remedies, actor Alec Baldwin took matters into his own hands. The Batman star accused photographer Alan Zanger and shoved Zanger's camera into his face after the photographer attempted to take pictures of Baldwin's wife, Kim Basinger, as she brought their baby home from the hospital in 1995.

Baldwin was acquitted of misdemeanor battery; Zanger filed a \$1-million lawsuit against him. Some paparazzi regard such confrontations almost as a badge of honor. Photographer Turiak boasts that he was assaulted by Burt Reynolds after taking pictures of the actor and his then-girlfriend, Loni Anderson. "I was walking away and he punched me in the back of the head," Turiak said. "That actually brought me quite a bit of notoriety."

Coz of the Enquirer says he is bidding against People magazine—which has run 43 Diana covers over the years—for the last pictures of the princess before the crash. "There's this tremendous obsession in the public for celebrity information," he said. "Everyone has dipped into celebrity coverage, from the big networks to Time and Newsweek. It's money; celebrities sell."

Coz says he will not buy any of the crash-scene photos, which he says are being offered for \$1 million, as a way of protesting the methods of what he calls the "stalkers."

Actor Tom Cruise says he has been followed by paparazzi in the same Paris tunnel where Diana was killed. "You don't know what it's like being chased by them," he told Reuters. "It is harassment under the guise of, you know, 'We are the press, we are entitled.' And when people are having a private moment, they should be allowed to have a private moment." (The Washington Post)



Photographers aiming long lenses down an area of beach in Barbuda, in pursuit of Princess Diana, in this 1995 file photo. (AP)

He wanted to be Diana's Onassis

By RICHARD BOUDREAUX

LONDON — If there was a suitor who could offer Princess Diana some privacy and peace of mind in the style to which she was accustomed, it was Dodi Fayed.

The son of the Egyptian self-made billionaire who owns the Harrods department store, Dodi had bodyguards and private planes. He had the use of 11 luxury homes from Manhattan to the French Riviera. And he got \$100,000 a month from his father.

When the 41-year-old playboy fell for Diana this summer and whisked her to the Mediterranean on his father's 190-foot yacht, a friend of his said, "He sees himself as Aristotle Onassis and Diana as his Jackie O."

Dodi, born in Alexandria, was the only child of Mohammed Fayed's marriage to the late Samira Khashoggi, the sister of billionaire arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. The boy grew up in a world of jet-set privilege, dividing time between family homes in Egypt and France.

spokesman said Dodi spent about a third of his time on "product development" for the store, but the spokesman couldn't think of a specific product he had developed. "He had an office in the store but never walked around as if he were the owner's son," the spokesman said.

Dodi's eight-month marriage to Suzanne Gregard, a one-time American model, ended amicably in 1987.

Another model, Kelly Fisher, claimed last month that she had given up a lucrative career, at his insistence, to marry him, only to be spurned when he fell for Diana.

Meanwhile, the playboy's father was becoming a pillar of British society. He bought Harrods, Punch, the Scottish castle of Clan Ross and a number of other emblems of empire. He employed 5,000 people, steered major investment into Britain and once averted a national currency crisis by persuading his friend the Sultan of Brunei to keep billions of pounds in sterling rather than switch them into dollars.

Harrods gave Fayed an in with Buckingham Palace. The shop has four warrants, one from each of the members of the royal family allowed to issue such special seals of approval: Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, the Queen Mother and Prince Charles.

'Dodi is a chick magnet. To get a girl, I don't think there are any limits on his extravagances, whether it is chartering a plane or getting on a boat. He would go to any port.'

— Andrew Wainrib, an old friend of Dodi's

Onassis-like characters, super-rich outsiders in Camelot.

Mohammed Fayed, the son of a schoolteacher, was born in Egypt 63 years ago.

Through a combination of shrewdness, connections and luck, he struck it rich in the oil business before moving here in the early 1970s.

Royal Windsor Horse Show, where he shares the queen's box.

But Fayed's purchase of Harrods, for \$900 million in 1985, was also to bring him discredit and prevent him from achieving one goal that had eluded him—British citizenship.

Roland W. Rowland, a politically powerful rival, also coveted the department store. After the purchase, he denounced Fayed as "the hero from zero" and persuaded the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate the Egyptian's background and financing.

He attended the exclusive Le Rosey school in Switzerland and did a short stint at Sandhurst, the British military academy for young men seeking social status. Later he worked briefly as an attaché in the United Arab Emirates Embassy in London.

It was a terribly British way of doing things," said Paul Goodman, a commentator at Britain's Daily Telegraph. "It was a battle between the establishment, with its accepted British ways of doing things, and a charismatic outsider who hustled in."

While acknowledging that he had altered some minor facts about his life when he was buying Harrods, Fayed accused the Conservative government of former prime minister John Major of racism and began a no-holds-barred campaign to clear his name.

When the campaign came to nothing, he disclosed that he had bribed a string of officials to help him pursue it. Three cabinet ministers resigned in disgrace, and the scandal helped bring down Major's government last year.

In a report that did not affect ownership of the store, the department concluded in 1990 that Fayed had lied about his origins, "practiced deception on a grand scale" and changed his name. The report was cited in 1994 when the government rejected his application for British citizenship.

Many who know him believe that the vengeful Fayed had more than just his son's romantic feelings in mind when he invited Diana to vacation with his family in the south of France in July.

Dodi and Diana had met 10 years earlier — when his polo team beat Prince Charles's team in a match at Windsor Great Park — but there was no hint of romance until that vacation. Then, after Di turned up last month on Dodi's yacht, British papers began reporting that the elder Fayed was eager to see the couple married.

"There's no evidence that he was discouraging the idea," Goodman said, noting the royal family's unease over the relationship. "He would have seen the angles as well as anyone. It was a fantastic way, I suppose, for him of slipping the so-called establishment in the face." (Los Angeles Times)

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Back to school

The first day of the school year, and the run-up to it, were characterized by the usual ritual of strike threats and arguments about big-ticket budget items like the "long school-day." For a day, the nation is focused on education like on a tidal wave that hits the country, or like a massive military operation.

short, with a panoply of techniques that engage the students and force them to think. Integrating such innovation into the educational system is not just a matter of increasing training budgets, but of shaking up the training system itself.



Poor diplomacy

Last week we were treated to two pieces of good news in the realm of Israeli foreign policy. Since good news has not been abundant in the past year, like finders of a great treasure, we fervently pounced on the announcements.

Yossi Belin: his wife was neither a Serb nor a Jew. Since 1991, Tadjman has been asking to establish diplomatic ties with us, in an effort to gain legitimacy. He has invited many Israelis to visit him, paid them great respect, and asked them to act as his emissaries to promote his goal.

alistic government of Netanyahu which has decided the time has come to change direction. In a recently released joint communiqué, the Croatian side denounces Nazism and the Holocaust, and apologizes for the offense to Jews on the part of pro-Nazi elements in Croatia.

Give Gaon a break

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

For those interested in Israel's economy, the most recent chapter in the saga of Koor - Israel's largest and most profitable industrial conglomerate - has been fascinating. In the past, the story of Koor - founded in 1944 by the Histadrut's construction company Solel Boneh to run the heavy industries it owned - centered around its unique contribution to the country's economic and social development.

Israeli society finds it difficult to salute those who have made it

of Benny Gaon, stemmed from baser motives. From his very first day at Koor in 1988, part of the media started to predict his downfall. Even when they were guessing more than reporting during the recent developments, many reporters were predicting that, whatever the outcome, Gaon was going to lose his job.

WHEN Stanley Gold, Shamrock's head, called for a spin-off of Koor shares - which would have involved the breaking up of Koor as a conglomerate - many reporters enthusiastically supported the idea, pointing out that while it would benefit the shareholders, it would also make Gaon redundant.

Finally, several days ago, after Koor published its second-quarter report and balance sheet showing a drop in profits (due to the economic slowdown) to \$30.2 million, ITV's economic correspondent announced that Gaon would surely be made to pay the price. Pay the price for what - for making a handsome profit despite the circumstances?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEED TO SEEK JUSTICE

Sir - The Anti-Defamation League applauds Stephen M. Flatow's appeal to Jewish leaders, urging them to speak out against the Palestinian Authority's release of terrorists, such as Nabil Sharhi, implicated in the 1995 terrorist murder of his daughter Alisa. (August 22).

with the PA in no way precludes the administration from taking action to bring such terrorists to justice. The need to seek justice for the senseless loss of lives, like that of Alisa Flatow, transcends any politics surrounding the peace process.

ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN ADL National Director New York.

CAME TO WIN

Sir - I am writing in reaction to some of the gratuitous remarks made by Sam Orbain (July 22), regarding Canada's participation in the Maccabiah hockey events. Of course Canada came to win. It's our national sport and anything less would signify a lack of respect for the premise of the Maccabiah games - to send our best to a world competition of Jewish athletes.

their preference for the beach over the Kotel. Had a poll been taken of male members of the other teams in the same age group, the beaches of Tel-Aviv would have proved just as popular. In fact even young Israelis overwhelmingly prefer the beach to the Kotel.

TED QUINT

BARBAROUS MANNER

Sir - The tragic death of Princess Diana has highlighted one of the ugliest and most disgusting features of modern life - the behavior of the so-called "paparazzi". In Israel, are unfortunately not immune from them.

DAVID ISRAEL Caesarea.

DEMOCRACY

Sir - I am writing with reference to the interesting letter from Pinchas Richard Wimberly "Democracy at Work" (Aug. 26). Mr. Wimberly writes "The real test is does the system work" and I would just like to say that clearly Mr. Eban and Mr. Arens, who have written articles in your paper recently calling for another change in the system, are of the opinion that it does not, or at least that some change to improve it is called for.

VICTOR BLOOM

The facts on the ground

Having talked with Maj-Gen. (Res.) Oren Shabor after he formally joined the Labor Party, I understand why the Palestinians have gotten away with violating the Oslo Agreements from the very beginning.

AARON LERNER

completing a deal with the Palestinians, come what may. "We have passed the point of no return," Shabor explained. "[Likud MK] Benny [Begin] thinks you can have an explosion [of the agreement] and that's that. I say that after an explosion we will return to the talks but from a worse position - after a Palestinian war of independence..."

BUT Oren Shabor is in the opposi-

If the premier turns his back on Palestinian violations, he will lose credibility as a serious negotiator

too. Has the Netanyahu government changed the game? It's hard to tell.

This government has been schizophrenic. Last February, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai chose to ignore settler warnings and told reporters that there were no Palestinian security violations of the Hebron agreement. It took until April for the Prime Minister's Office to release a report titled "Unilateral Measures Taken by the Palestinian Authority in Violation of Oslo" which revealed that Mordechai was way off the mark.

Two years ago, while in opposition, Ariel Sharon painted quite a different picture about the importance of Palestinian forces. "During an invasion, even the smallest delay in mobilization can be critical," he explained. "Sometimes we block a road for a suspicious bomb. Here we are talking about tens of thousands of armed people who can plant bombs, put up stone barriers, snipe from the hills... There is no question that an impediment to the mobilization."

I have no doubt that Shabor's Palestinian counterparts were well aware that he didn't consider these security violations to be of any consequence. And they knew something else: that Shabor and his colleagues were committed to

The writer is a Labor MK.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 2, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that four Arabs were shot dead near Hadera. A noted Arab terrorist, Nasr Shraideh of Trans-Jordan, was shot by British police in Beit She'an. An appeal for national discipline and restraint was issued by the Va'ad Leumi

(The National Council for Palestine Jewry). There were reports of renewed anti-Jewish excesses in Poland. 50 years ago: On September 2, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the British Government had decided to be silent on the UN Special Committee's

Palestine Report until the General Assembly debated the subject. An infant who had died on board the Ocean Vigour, one of the three British "floating cages" carrying the detained Exodus 1947 "illegal" immigrants to Hamburg was buried at sea. Alexander Zvielli

Hutus, Tutsis and Rosamund Carr

By DIANA CHAIN

Rosamund Carr recalls the time when visitors steadily streamed past her fields of yellow, blue and red flowers and found their way into her ivy-covered stone home.

An American who left the life of a New York fashion designer for Africa 47 years ago, Carr doubts that her conflict-riven adopted homeland can find its way back to peace.



Mealtime at the orphanage Carr runs near Gisenyi: There are 74 children, too many for her meager resources. (AP)

Though peace seems a chimera in Rwanda, the one-time New York fashion designer is staying put in her adopted homeland.

Carr's hospitality is well known in Central Africa and beyond. She was a close friend of Dian Fossey and a featured character, portrayed by actress Julie Harris, in the film on Fossey's life, *Gorillas in the Mist*.

The plantation and orphanage, known as Imbabazi, or "care" in the Kinyarwanda language, sit in the foothills of the Virunga volcano range that forms the border between Rwanda, Uganda and Congo — a restive area that has been the scene of conflict for over a century.

slaughter that killed at least 500,000 minority Tutsis. Carr tried to protect her Tutsi neighbors at her house, but Hutu mobs frightened them into fleeing. When a Tutsi-led government took power and ended the genocide, Carr was hopeful about peace. Renewed bloodshed has ruined her optimism.

In November, hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutus fled past Carr's home on their way back from three years of exile in Zaire, renamed Congo after a rebellion there. They had fled Rwanda because they feared punishment for the genocide.

Carr, her employees, and the orphans also watched thousands of Rwandan Hutu militants return in April and May, ready to fight to topple the new government. Many of the rebels now hide in the forests near her plantation.

When a single gunshot went off recently, Carr said she "jumped a mile." Meanwhile, the children — Tutsis who lost families in the genocide, as well as Hutus returned from exile — only laughed. "The children don't seem to be very scared," Carr said.

Defense Minister Paul Kagame has said he will wipe out the rebels and reconcile a divided people. Government figures show that at least 1,800 rebels, 100 soldiers and 300 civilians have been killed since April. But the battle is not over.

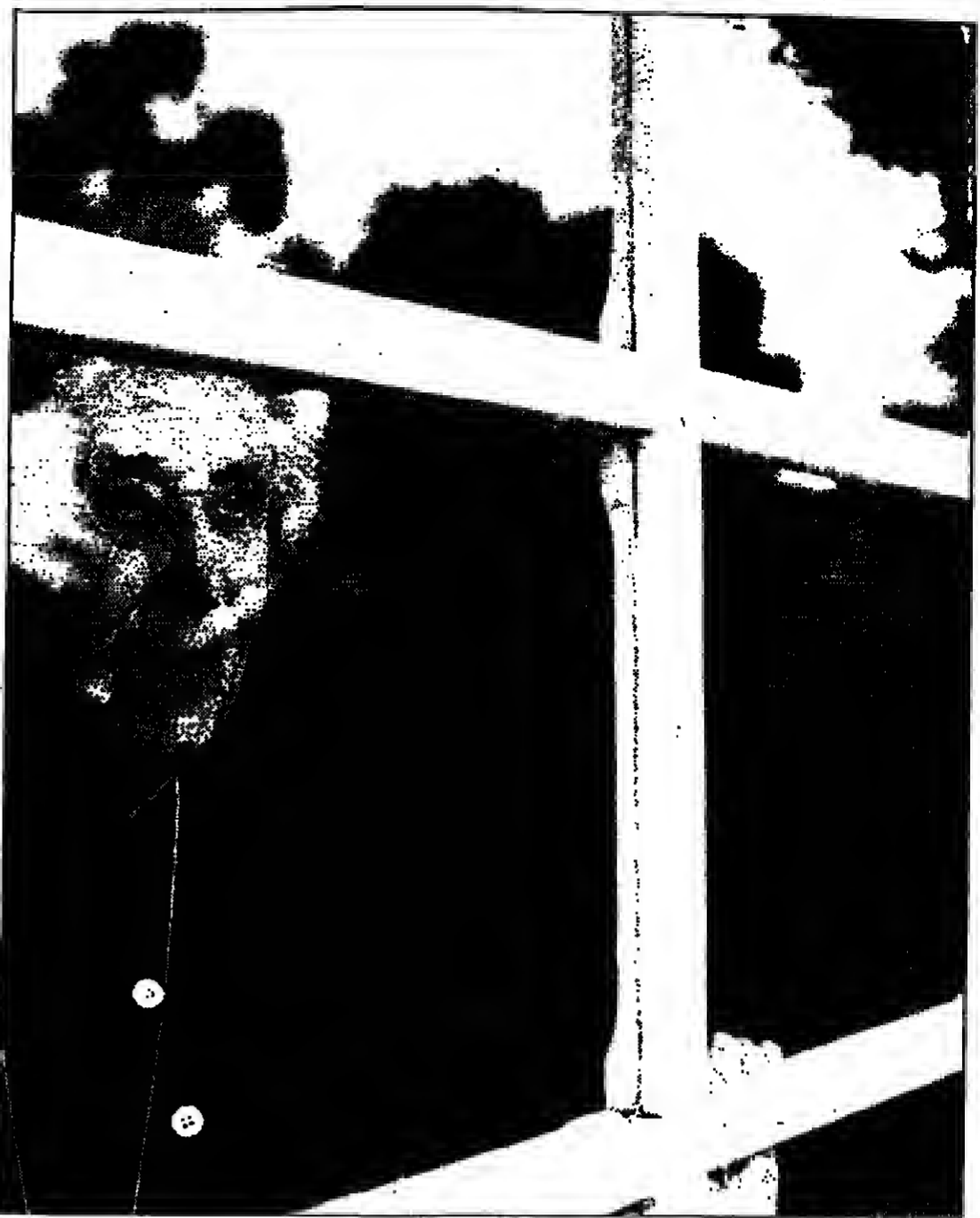
Hutus fear that soldiers in the predominantly Tutsi army will seek vengeance against villagers they suspect of assisting the rebels, Carr said.

Her Hutu employees are uneasy, even though the soldiers who guard her plantation day and night have promised to keep them safe. All her Hutu employees insist on getting home before dark.

The cook, who lives opposite a military camp just 500 meters from the plantation, insists on leaving the earliest. "He's scared," Carr said. "When I asked him why, he said the other workers walk across the fields to get home. He told me, 'Madame, I live in front of the guns.'"

Carr is no stranger to conflict. She has witnessed rebel uprisings and genocide since coming to Africa in 1950, when she married an Englishman and set up a farm with him. They separated in 1955, but Carr stayed. She had fallen in love with the land.

The recent deaths of a young couple related to a senior government official, three local aid workers, and a family of five have made Carr lose faith in any short-term solution.



The 85-year-old former American looks out from her cottage in rural Rwanda toward an uncertain future and says, 'I am so pessimistic now.' (AP)

"I am so pessimistic now," she said, wisps of gray hair drifting across her face as she shook her head. "When the war first ended, I was so optimistic. I thought Kagame was so good. But since the return [of the Hutu militia], the killings have begun, and I don't think there will be reconciliation for a long time."

The new arrivals brought sicknesses with them, she said. Foreign doctors from international aid

agencies who used to visit the plantation weekly no longer venture along the dangerous route to Carr's home. There is a local clinic, but the very sick must be taken to a hospital in Gisenyi, an hour's drive along dirt roads through ambush territory.

Carr said she is worried not for herself but for the children, her Rwandan friends, and the country she now calls home. (AP)

But events of the past months have left their mark. Carr's meager resources — profits from flower sales and private donations — aren't enough for the orphans, whose number swelled from 45 to 74, as aid agencies were unable to find the families of returning Hutu children.

The new arrivals brought sicknesses with them, she said. Foreign doctors from international aid

The Kabul school where street kids learn survival

By KATHY GANNON

Dozens of barefoot street children are gathered in a classroom, learning reading, writing and arithmetic as well as how to survive in war-shattered Kabul.

The teaching aids are stark and to the point: drawings of shrapnel splintering out at a victim; a photograph of a young boy, both legs lost to a land mine.

Aschiana, a Swiss-based group whose name stands for Afghan Street Children and New Approach, knows that these students must be drilled on the dangers of land mines if they are to make it through a typical day.

Decades of war have ruined Afghanistan's economy. The children living on Kabul's streets — roughly 28,000 of them according

to a UN survey — live by scavenging for anything of value. They scrounge for spent shells and mortars they can sell as scrap metal, and for paper and wood that also fetch a price in the market. Their hunt often takes them into the war-torn neighborhoods of Kabul littered with land mines and unexploded ordnance.

Aschiana opened its school and vocational training center in 1995, using a converted two-story home. By December 1996, it had enrolled 650 street children. The school is the only one with permission from Kabul's current rulers, the Islamic Taliban army, to enroll girls — and then only those under eight years old.

All other girls' schools were closed when the Taliban seized Kabul last September. In line with

its strict brand of Islamic law, men were forced to grow beards and pray. Music and photography were banned; women were banished from the work force and the

schools.

"The girls are accepted, but they are kept completely separated," said Mohammad Wardak, Aschiana's assistant director. The Aschiana teachers and staff are men.

Aschiana gives the children two meals a day, and a bath every morning. At noon the Aschiana students become street children again, collecting scrap for two hours until lunch and a final lesson.

"Some of them are the only source of income for their families," Wardak said. "They are from the poorest people. They are wood collectors, paper collectors, even beggars."

Five-year-old Najira, a typical student, gets up every morning at 5 to trudge outside her home to

collect paper. By 8 she arrives at Aschiana, where she meets her friends, has a bath and some breakfast, and starts class. "I like to draw, and I can count numbers," Najira said in barely a

whisper. Her voice gained strength as she talked about her family, the war that killed her brother. They scared her, and made her hide in a corner.

Her head scarf tightly wrapped around her tiny head and her hands firmly on her hips, the little girl struck a pose somewhere between compliance and defiance as she explained that she wanted to be either a teacher or a doctor. For now, she has other work.

"Sometimes I get tired. When I do, I just sit down, and then I get up and start picking up paper again," she said.

Five-year-old Idrees collects wood. A slight boy in dirty beige tunic and pajamas, he says his biggest fear is of land mines. "I try to go far away from them," he

said. One of his classmates was absent. He had stepped on a land mine the day before. Eleven-year-old Ghyassudin told the story of his friend:

"He went to the hill to collect thorns and paper. His mother said don't go, but he went anyway. He stepped on a land mine and his foot was cut off," he said, his eyes riveted to the ceiling as he spoke.

Aschiana, which is partially funded by the European Union, brings in UN instructors who show the children how to spot and avoid land mines. Instead of swings and seesaws in its front yard, Aschiana has a small playhouse surrounded by fake land mines where the children can practice what they learn in the classroom. (AP)

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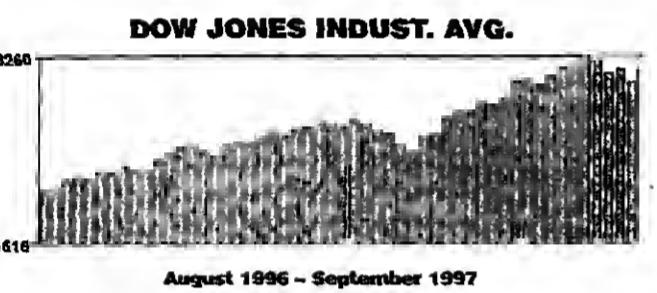
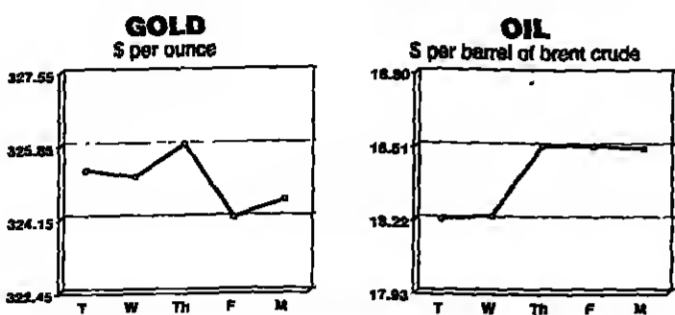
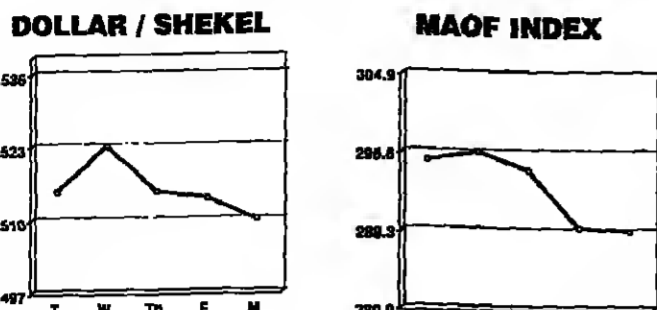
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MARKETS

in brief



Tourism Ministry: Ease Russian visas

Tourism Ministry Director-General David Livyak will meet his counterpart from the Interior Ministry, David Efrati, to try to make it easier for Russian tourists to obtain visas for Israel. Tour organizers have alleged that Israeli consular officials simply refuse to grant tourist visas or demand enormous deposits or guarantees to ensure that visitors leave when their tour is over. The Tourism Ministry predicts 80,000 Russian tourists will visit in 1997, a 19 percent increase over 65,000 in 1996. It was decided to open a joint office representing El Al and the ministry, to increase the number of weekly flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv and to inaugurate direct flights between Moscow and St. Petersburg and Eilat. *Haim Shapiro*

Frame relay lines now in hotels

A local company has begun installing frame relay lines and other infrastructure into leading hotels, allowing guests to use the Internet from their rooms or from personal computers in public areas for a per-hour or per-diem fee. Intournet, which also provides on-line tourist information, has begun with the 650-room Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel, the largest hotel in Israel. The Hyatt Regency in Jerusalem will be the next one to be hooked up. The Renaissance offers the service to local residents and businessmen, and not only to hotel guests. *Judy Siegel*

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August budget deficit hits NIS 1.34 billion

Foreign currency reserves reach record high of \$18.2 billion

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The August budget deficit totalled NIS 1.34 billion, compared to a NIS 451 surplus in July, the Treasury's Accountant-General Shai Talmon announced yesterday.

The government said that last month's deficit was seasonal, reflecting the payment of clothing expenses to public sector employees. Since the beginning of the year, the domestic deficit has mounted to NIS 3.42b.

In the June-August period, the budget deficit totalled NIS 4.4b., compared to a surplus of about NIS 1b. in the January-May period.

Deficit figures since the beginning of the year indicate a revenue crisis, with a heavy shortfall compared to the plan, especially in Customs and VAT division revenues. This is attributed to the economic slowdown and the contraction of private consumption and the import of durable goods.

The overall budget deficit - combined domestic and foreign activities - amounted last month to NIS 1.66b., compared to a surplus of NIS 232m. in July. August's foreign deficit amounted to NIS 319m., compared to July's NIS 219m. deficit.

In the January-August period, the government's total deficit amounted to NIS 6.66b., about 66% of the deficit planned for the whole of 1997.

The government estimates that the 1997 deficit will total 3.1% of GNP, exceeding its 2.8% target.

Meanwhile, foreign currency reserves reached a record high of \$18.253b., following a \$258m. increase in August.

Following a sharp 16.5% increase in the April-July period, reserves increased by another 1.6% last month.

The Bank of Israel attributed the August increase in reserves to government transfers and changes in the banks' deposits with the Bank of Israel. The Bank of Israel has not intervened in trading and has not had to purchase foreign currency from the private sector since June 20, due to the introduction of foreign currency liberalization measures.

From the beginning of the year to mid-June, the Bank of Israel was allowed to purchase a total of up to \$7b. in foreign currency from the private sector. The Bank of Israel figures indicate that the reserves increased in January-August by about \$6.78b., a rise of 58.5% since December. The shekel was revalued against the currency basket by a total of 0.41% in August, further to a 2.73% revaluation in July. Against the dollar, the shekel was revalued in August by 0.73%, further to a 1.31% revaluation in July.

The currency basket presently stands 0.73% above the lower limit of the fluctuation range.



Tiger no longer? Investors confer with each other at the Thailand Stock Exchange in Bangkok yesterday. The country's stock prices fell as investors sold off banking and finance stocks in the face of continuing decline in the value of the baht on the money markets. (AP)

Goodbye to Rehovot's golden arches

First of Israel's 46 McDonald's outlets goes bust

By Globes Business News and Jerusalem Post Staff

After 18 months in operation, the Rehovot branch of McDonald's shut its doors over the weekend, the first of the chain's restaurants to close.

Located in the Rehovot Central Mall, the fast-food restaurant, one of 46 McDonald's outlets here, closed due to a lack of profits, two years before the end of its lease agreement with the mall.

Israel's McDonald's franchisee, Omri Padan, attributed the outlet's failure to the fact that he had been forced to turn the restaurant into a kosher branch and that the conversion had proven not to be economically worthwhile.

For years, Padan has waged a steadfast war against the Labor Ministry's attempts to close down McDonald's outlets across the country on Shabbat, protesting closures at the Lower Golan Junction and in north Tel Aviv's Ramat Aviv mall.

Rehovot Central Mall general manager Tommy Lang said that making the restaurant kosher did not help profitability.

"A kosher McDonald's branch is no great bargain," Lang said. "We decided to look for an alternative."

McDonald's still has four kosher branches here. In February, McDonald's opened its first branch in the Israeli Arab sector. With signs in English, Hebrew, and Arabic, the restaurant is located on the Haifa-Karmiel road.

The company has 21,000 branches worldwide. Last year, it opened its first non-beef restaurant in India.

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ECI: Aid cuts will cost 250 local jobs

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

If the Treasury cuts the research and development budget, ECI Telecom will consider moving 250 manufacturing jobs abroad. CEO David Rubner said yesterday.

"If we don't have the money to invest in development, the only way for us to deal with the decrease in the budget will be to decrease the cost of production," said Rubner. "In order to do this we might move jobs to India, Jordan, or England."

ECI, which receives \$15m. of the \$80m. it invests in local R&D efforts from the Office of the Chief Scientist, previously said it would increase its Ofakim-based manufacturing facility from 200 employees today to 450.

Next week the Treasury is expected to meet to discuss the 1998 budget. Finance Ministry Director-General Shmuel Slavin previously said that all ministries will be affected by the NIS 2.3 billion budget cut slated for next year.

Chief Scientist Ora Berry said that high-tech R&D is already being hurt by a nominal drop in the amount her office received in 1997.

In 1997 the R&D budget totalled NIS 1.125b., down from NIS 1.13b.

in 1996. Berry said she needs an additional \$57m. to provide grants in compliance with the Research and Development Incentives law.

"According to the law, companies that meet certain criteria are entitled to grants," said Berry, adding that the number of requests for funding increased by 30% in 1997.

If the government does not grant the Chief Scientist's Office more money, it will not be able to award grants to companies that apply for funding in the last quarter of 1997, which would cause an "economic disaster," said Berry.

"We have to increase the size of the pie or else we'll damage the high-tech industry beyond repair," she said.

The high-tech industry, because of the added value of technological developments, has the potential to be more economically profitable than the diamond sector, said Amiram Shone, head of the Manufacturers Association's software division.

"The software industry is growing at a rate of 20% - 25% and by the year 2002 or 2003 exports will total \$1b.," he said. "This will bring more to the economy than diamonds, even if exports total \$10b., due to the high added value."

Siemens established a local subsidiary in 1995.

Since then, the company has purchased Ornet, a Karmiel-based telecommunications products developer, entered a joint venture with Elscint, the maker of medical detection devices; invested in the Star Venture capital fund; signed a deal with the Palestinian telecommunications company, PalTel, to plan a pilot project for wireless communication in Ramallah, and won a bid to participate in the construction of the Gaza Airport.

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Ravitz: Canceling yeshiva funds would cause crisis

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) warned yesterday that a coalition crisis would erupt if the government implements a reported Finance Ministry plan to do away with financing for yeshivas.

"If this plan affects the next budget and if the thinking is that the government won't fulfill its coalition agreement, then there will be a crisis," Ravitz said in a telephone interview from Argentina.

Ravitz noted that his party belongs to the coalition "and the government should support the yeshivot."

The Finance Ministry declined to comment.

The plan being protested by Ravitz is part of a blueprint by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, disclosed last week, for increasing the rate of employment in the haredi community.

It calls for the IDF to enlist 60,000 to 70,000 haredi youth for one month's duty, after which they would be free to either study or work.

Neeman predicted that many haredi youth would enter the work force under such a plan, because they would no longer have to fear forfeiting military exemptions.

Currently, haredim enrolled in yeshivot are exempted from military duty, but those who work face mandatory conscription.

Neeman said that only 10% to 15% of yeshiva students are prodigies, while most study at the yeshivot to avoid serving in the military.

Ravitz took issue with figures. He said that "studying is our ideological existence. No one can tell us that's wrong."

He called it crazy to think that 70,000 yeshiva students would forgo studies to enter the work force.

Ravitz said he supports the idea of haredim working after several years of study, as long as the government pays to train them.

He said he would discuss the issue with Neeman when he returns to Israel later in the week.

Meanwhile, Neeman is investigating reports that haredi yeshivot are inflating their enrollment figures to make them eligible for more government funds.

The annual budget earmarked for the yeshivot totals NIS \$50m. for 1997, 40% more than last year.

According to the Religious Affairs Ministry, the number of students enrolled in yeshivot increased by 25% this year to 194,000.

Neeman has alleged that the figures exceed natural population growth.

Ravitz said that if the allegations of inflated enrollment figures were true, then such actions "must be stopped."

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns for stock name, price, and change. Includes companies like Al Paper Mills, Adco, and various banks.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table with columns for stock name, price, and change. Includes companies like ATX, Adco, and various banks.

Main table of stock prices and changes, organized in columns. Includes various international and domestic stocks.

Table of stock prices and changes, continuing from the previous table. Includes various international and domestic stocks.

TASE little changed; Nikkei at 4.5-month low

Israeli stocks were little changed after two trading days of losses as investors waited for US trading to begin after the Labor Day weekend. Gaining shares included Koor Industries Ltd., Israel's largest publicly traded industrial company...

Mark falls against dollar ahead of rate decision

The dollar rose against the mark amid expectations Germany's benchmark securities repurchase rate would be left unchanged at its record low at today's Bundesbank tender.

Oil prices down after delay in Iraqi shipments

October Brent crude oil prices fell, after brokers' expectations, as concerns grew that fourth-quarter supplies could be boosted if the United Nations allows Iraq to defer some oil it couldn't sell this quarter.

Precious Metals

Platinum prices rose and palladium prices fell in London intermediate delivery rose \$3 to \$410 an ounce. Palladium for immediate delivery fell \$1.50 to \$189.50 an ounce.

Coffee

Coffee futures rose to their highest level for almost two weeks amid concern a strike by workers at a Brazilian port could disrupt coffee shipments...

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NEWS

of the muse

Dylan will have an audience - with the pope

Bob Dylan will sing for a very special audience next month: Pope John Paul II.

Genesis of a new star

He isn't famous yet, but he can sing like he is.

Sotheby's to auction '60s Lennon letter

A letter home by John Lennon during a 1965 Beatles US tour that's up for auction reveals his guilt at being apart from his son.

Shaquille media blitz continues

Although Shaquille O'Neal has seemed omnipresent and inescapable between his basketball games, his endless stream of commercials for Taco Bell, Reebok and Pepsi, and his other media appearances, it's all just been a warm-up for the newest multimedia Shaq-a-Thon.

Hollywood honors Kirk Douglas

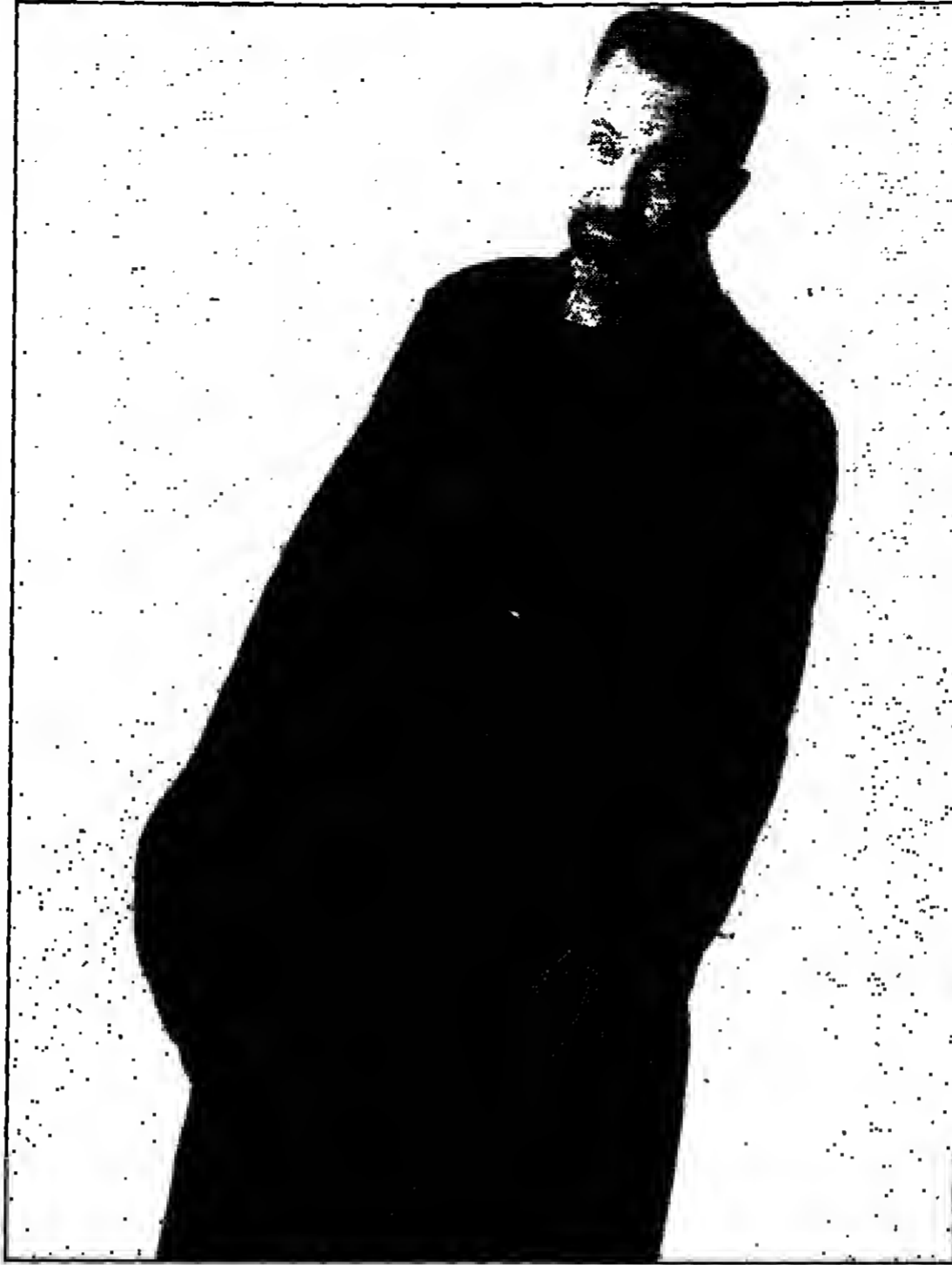
Kirk Douglas has no new film to push, but he'll still be a guest of honor at the first Hollywood Film Festival.

Masada: The musical

Composer Shuki Levy can write music to order, but this one "comes from the heart and has taken me three years."

and the rest is history. Levy has set the musical as a form of flashbacks, which starts with a modern tourist explaining Masada's history to his son, and "ends with a message of hope for the future as children climb the mountain for peace."

IN TUNE



Rumor has it that, in place of his pop career, Billy Joel is to take up classical composing.

End of the road for Billy Joel?

By DAVID BRINN

Very few artists deserve a third volume of greatest hits.

Greatest Hits could be seen as a summation of a solid artist who showed flashes of brilliance.

FEELINGS by David Byrne is not a greatest-hits album, but stylistically it feels like a career retrospective.

voice, quirky songs, mannerisms and off-kilter lyrics. Byrne seems to take devilish delight in moving farther away from the center to the fringes, even as his commercial visibility fades.

Iran calls for more cinemas

Iran's new top official in charge of films called for building a cinema at each city park in the Islamic republic, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Wednesday.

provinces, discouraged the opening of new cinemas, which they saw as encouraging un-Islamic values.

organizations in the cinema industry. Some Iranian films have been well received by international critics.

THEATER REVIEW

An ideal production

By NAOMI DOUDAI

The first act of Oscar Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband,' with its drawing-room charade of Edwardian high society, almost always proves to be a killer for Israeli actors.

This version of Wilde's classic comedy, directed by Mitko Buzakov, is however a serious exception.

not often so forgiving as Lady Chiltem. Yuli Harguil, with her chilly English-rose charm, makes a model Lady Chiltem.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND by Oscar Wilde Hasifriya Theater Ramat Gan

is appropriately partnered by Michal Brand as the cute, coquettish Mabel, daughter of the house.

CHILDREN'S OPERA REVIEW

Breathing life into puppets

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Legend of Life, Nina Vorogel and Leonid Hayt's adaptation of the Cinderella story to a modern song-and-dance world using the music of Avi Benyamini, is a great presentation with one major problem: the show hovers restlessly between the worlds of children and adults, not knowing

why. It is bright, it is exciting but it makes very little sense, if any, to young children.

The major component of this Cinderella is the music. Avi Benyamini, known for his extraordinary work for Gesher Theater, has created a brilliant collage ranging from opera and classical music to folk, popular and rock songs.

LEGEND OF LIFE by Nina Vorogel and Leonid Hayt Sznazne Dellal Tel Aviv, August 28

where exactly it wants to land. On the one hand it is a visually striking puppet presentation with actors who breathe real life into the puppets and also act occasionally. It is a story full of tempo and gusto, a great show for one and all.

Bottom line: this production of Cinderella is a first-rate presentation which children might find somewhat confusing and adults occasionally simplistic. That said, it is a professional and enjoyable production which young and old alike should rush to see, in spite of its faults.

Lights, camera, nostalgia



Ray Milland falls in love with Jean Arthur in the delightful 1937 comedy 'Easy Living,' one of Channel 2's classic-movie series.

By HELEN KAYE

There's three months of movie bliss ahead for nostalgia buffs, provided you're still up after midnight and/or can put up with the commercials.

A string of romantic comedies lightened people's lives from the darkest days of the Depression to the uneasy 'Red Scare' years that succeeded the end of World War II.

Cukor, the man who directed the mega-hit My Fair Lady (1965), the powerhouse quartet of Joan Crawford, Paulette Goddard, Norma Shearer and Rosalind Russell in The Women: the classic The Philadelphia Story (1940) - yes, the one with Cary Grant, Jimmy Stewart and Katharine Hepburn - and it is on October 20, as well as Cukor's 1933 dazzler Dinner at Eight, with Jean Harlow and Marie Dressler (November 10).

Then there's Charles Laughton (who was a wonderfully accomplished comedian) as Ruggles of Red Gap (1935) on September 29; Ameche again and Colbert in the 1939 Midnight (October 13), the amazing movie they made in 1941 of the Kaufman/Hart The Man Who Came to Dinner, starring Gene Tierney and Monty Woolley as Sheridan Whiteside, and oh, oh, two Tracy/Hepburn films airing December 15 and 22 - Woman of the Year (1942) and Adam's Rib (1949). Better stock up on popcorn.

Vertical text on the far left margin, possibly from another page or a sidebar.

CRITICS' CHOICE

ETHNIC MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Bustan Avraham, Israel's animated and thrilling east-meet-west ensemble, plays tonight (9) at the Zionist Confederation House in Jerusalem...



Bustan Avraham plays tonight at the Zionist Confederation House in Jerusalem. (Jeremy Feldman)

MUSEUM

HELEN KAYE

The Diaspora Museum on the Tel Aviv University campus presents Beth Hatefutsoth by Night, a journey through our heritage with a bit of theater, a bit of music and lots of soul.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

The Beersheba Theater's unsentimental production of Clifford Odets's 'Awake and Sing' (Shir Hadash in Hebrew), starring Hanna Roth and Shlomo Bar-Shavit...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***** BEAN - British comic Rowan Atkinson has lopsided eyes, big flaps for ears, almost no chin, and a sharp beak of a nose that alopes to a perilous point.

although attempts to recount this humor in words ("and then he puts a turkey in the microwave...") are bound to come up short, reducing the quirky comic logic of Bean's bearing to a laundry list of predictable and abrupt-sounding gags...

***** A MOMENT OF INNOCENCE - Another beautiful film by the Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, this movie is set far from the colorful wilds of Gabbah, in a wintry gray, modern-day Tehran...

TV

CHANNEL 1: 8:30 News flash, 8:31 News in Arabic, 8:45 Good Morning Israel... EDUCATIONAL TV: 8:00 Group One Medical, 8:30 Art Workshop, 9:00 Science and Nature...

CHANNEL 1: 15:30 Daner, the Last Dinosaur, 15:50 Super Ben, 16:00 Dennis and Gasher... CHANNEL 2: 8:15 Today's Programs, 8:30 Cartoons, 9:00 The Simpsons...

CHANNEL 2: 8:15 Today's Programs, 8:30 Cartoons, 9:00 The Simpsons, 9:30 Today's Programs, 9:50 News... CHANNEL 3: 8:30 News flash, 8:31 News in Arabic, 8:45 Good Morning Israel...

CHANNEL 3: 15:30 Echo Point, 16:00 News, 16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful, 16:50 Different Driving... CHANNEL 4: 8:00 Open University, 8:05 Family Album, 8:10 The Little Bear...

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

13:00 The Asian Connection: Road to Mandalay (1995), 13:20 The Untouchables, 13:30 The Untouchables...

13:00 The Asian Connection: Road to Mandalay (1995), 13:20 The Untouchables, 13:30 The Untouchables...

8:30 Children (5): 8:30 Children, 9:05 Magic Schoolbus, 9:20 The Little Bear, 9:35 Sesame Street...

8:30 Children (5): 8:30 Children, 9:05 Magic Schoolbus, 9:20 The Little Bear, 9:35 Sesame Street...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and rows for different time slots (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) listing TV programs.

9:00 Nomads: Kenya, 9:05 The Flying Pickles - barbershop style quartet, 9:20 Kagayama - dance adaptation of a Japanese fairy tale...

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE: Love Sick 5 - The Doom Generation 7, 9:15 PANORAMA Atterlow 4:30, 7:30, 9:30 All About the Wives 5, 7:15, 9:15...



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 A sound container, though commonplace (7), 5 Now despatched beforehand (7), 9 Tactless affected such wear (3-4)...

DOWN: 1 Poor journalist looked on as just a tool (7), 2 Mother's going round an old city that's more sophisticated (7), 3 Get up mystery tours (5), 4 Game minor has no equal (9)...

Cryptic crossword grid with numbers and some letters filled in.

SOLUTIONS

POLTERGEIST: MURDER, BLOOD, INDEBTED, ENEMY, LOST, CHASER, ANNIVERSARY... Yesterday's Quick Solution: ACROSS: 1 Terror, 4 Welch, 8 Bepel, 2 Assista, 10 Brattini, 11 Marx, 12 End, 14 Oslo, 15 Iran, 19 Nob, 21 Ovens, 22 Revalise, 25 Flacott, 26 Trump, 27 Ellect, 28 Atear.

Quick crossword grid with numbers and some letters filled in.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Stylvan deity (5), 4 Flourination (5), 10 Gastronomer (7), 11 Contend (5), 12 Cleave (5), 13 Futile (7), 15 Orient (4), 17 Couples (5), 19 Willow (5), 22 Record (4), 25 Shortage (7), 27 List (5), 29 Redoubt (5), 30 Erudite (7), 31 Cut (5), 32 Dexterity (5)...

crim... to offi... this... the... not ways said... teril ming... legal... rman give few... itiga... she... the r-On... a me... Y... rand of de... tion... spids... Jour... le... review about which... aw... nce of... wards... change merge... Press... chan... with... im of... latory... David of... the... s... press... lions... man... in... Dick... om-but... lion... ling... The... tion... mit... tme... tree... anc... ic... evit... ed... ce... 98... 99... 100...

Production... life... pets... ing the monarchy...

Hanegbi approves judicial reforms

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Chief Justice Aharon Barak yesterday endorsed a judicial panel's recommendations for reforming the nation's court system.

The report culminated a two-year probe by a six-member committee headed by High Court Justice Theodor Orr, which had been appointed by the former justice minister, David Litai.

The most sweeping reform outlined was to delegate more civil and criminal cases to the magistrate's courts.

Hanegbi said he would show the proposals to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the next few days. He hoped that the Treasury would agree to finance the hiring of 60 more magistrate's court judges as the reforms call for.

The changes would amount to the most important reform in the legal system since the state was established, Barak said, adding that they would be done gradually and completed by the year 2000.

Barak said that more judges would have been needed even without the proposed reforms. "We have too many files for too few judges," he said.

Orr said that Israelis go to court relatively often compared to other nations.

"The need to go to court in Israel is exceptionally high when compared with other Western countries—and it is growing," Orr said.

He said that taking into account

population growth, there was a 42% increase in cases filed last year as compared to 1982. Judges' case-loads have also doubled in this period, Orr said.

The recommendations call for leaving in place the three tier system of magistrate, district and high courts. But they call for having magistrate's courts handle many types of cases currently handled by the district courts.

The magistrate's courts would wind up handling most civil matters, including financial claims beyond a current NIS 1 million limit. Property claims would also come before magistrates, as well as damage claims.

Criminal cases, except those requiring a three-person bench (such as in instances of murder or rape) would also be heard by the magistrate's courts. Currently the magistrates can hear cases where the maximum sentence involved is seven years.

District courts would serve as courts of appeal for sentences handed down by magistrates, making them the country's main appeals courts.

But they would also hear criminal cases where more than one judge is required to preside. The district courts would also continue to hear civil cases involving taxes, bonds and bankruptcies.

They would also be responsible for precedent-setting cases and class action suits.

The Supreme Court would cease being mainly a court of appeals, and deal mainly with "difficult appeals in which norms have to be set," Barak said.



Speaker in Switzerland

Swiss President Arnold Koller (center) met in Bern yesterday with a Knesset delegation led by Speaker Dan Tichon (second left). It was the first time a Knesset delegation "came to dialogue with our friends in the Swiss parliament," Tichon said, adding that his impression was that the Swiss are trying to make progress on the question of dormant Jewish assets from the Holocaust in the banks. (AP)

WEATHER

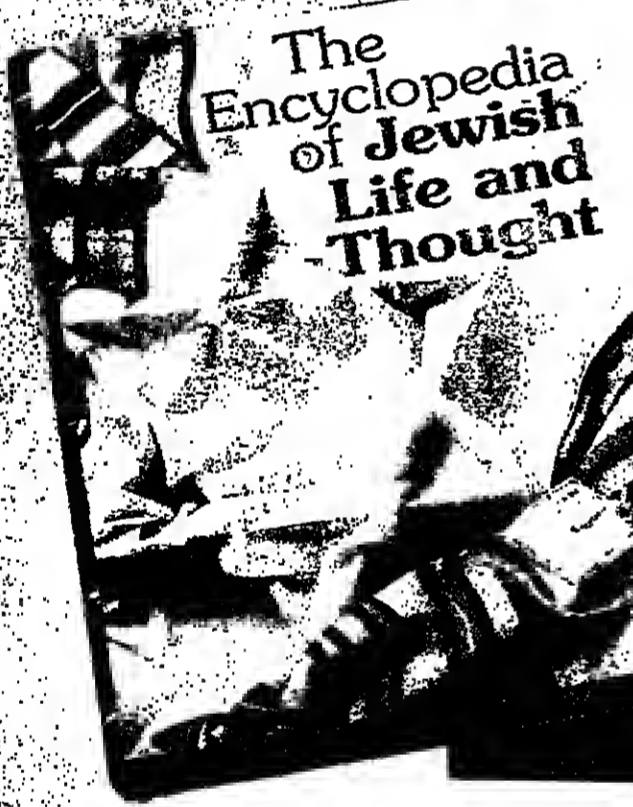
Golan 15-24
Haifa 22-28
Tiberias 21-33
Afuleh 19-30
Samartha 18-26
Tel Aviv 23-28
Jerusalem 16-25
Beer Sheva 19-29
Dead Sea 27-35
Eilat 25-35

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Drop in temperatures and unseasonably cool.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
	F	C	F		
Amsterdam	15	59	24	75	cloudy
Berlin	14	57	26	79	clear
Buenos Aires	08	45	14	57	rain
Cardo	21	70	30	86	clear
Chicago	13	56	20	68	clear
Frankfurt	18	61	22	72	clear
Geneva	17	63	23	74	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	82	31	88	clear
Johannesburg	09	48	12	54	clear
Lisbon	18	64	22	72	cloudy
London	15	59	22	72	clear
Los Angeles	21	70	31	88	clear
Moscow	14	57	29	84	cloudy
Mumbai	05	41	18	64	cloudy
New York	21	70	31	88	cloudy
Paris	15	59	28	82	cloudy
Rome	17	63	29	84	clear
Sydney	12	54	21	70	clear
Tokyo	15	59	28	82	clear
Vienna	16	61	23	73	clear
Zurich	14	57	23	73	cloudy

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Winning cards

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing (286/97), the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 8 of clubs. In the second drawing (287/97), the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the 8 of hearts, the 7 of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

Bibi to Christians: Make 2000 a year of peace

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi yesterday issued a call for Christian leaders worldwide to declare 2000 a year of no conflicts in the Holy Land, just as the ancient Greeks made the Olympic year one without wars.

Bibi also acknowledged to local church leaders that the recent closure of Bethlehem, which prevented Christian pilgrims from visiting the birthplace of Christ, was a mistake. He said a way should be found to maintain open access to holy sites.

"We have to keep the way to the holy places open. There must not be a closure on Bethlehem," Bibi told the clerics after some complained bitterly about a three-week closure of Bethlehem which was lifted last week.

The local church leaders convened in Bibi's office at a meeting of the ministry's advisory council for planning millennium celebrations.

Metropolitan Cornelius of the Greek Orthodox Church said he knew of people who had saved for 30 or 40 years for a pilgrimage. Then, he said, someone throws a bomb and the authorities declare an emergency.

"You can't tell them to come back in another 30 or 40 years," Cornelius said.

Bibi said he agreed that Bethlehem should be kept open at all times and not be affected by security measures. He said that perhaps the task would require some joint action by Israel and the Palestinians.

Police reshuffle after Bet Sahour riot

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian police commanders have reshuffled senior officers in the Bethlehem area in the wake of a confrontation between police and hundreds of Christians in Bet Sahour who had protested the arrest of several of their co-religionists.

Under the reshuffle, Bethlehem police chief Col. Kamal Alsheik has been transferred to Ramallah. He will be replaced by the Ramallah commander, Col. Fares Alamlah.

The transfer order was signed by Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat and implemented on Sunday in the wake of a petition by hundreds of Bet Sahour residents who had protested Alsheik's behavior during a violent demonstration in early August.

The protest began after an Islamic militant harangued a Christian girl for what he called improper dress and beat up her companion. The companion returned with several friends and pummeled the militant along with two police officers in plainclothes who had accompanied the Moslem.

Reinforcements were called from the Bet Sahour police station and two Christians were arrested. Hours later, hundreds of Christians stormed the station and police responded by firing in the air.

Eyewitnesses said seven people, including two officers, were hurt by the gunfire.

At that point, Bet Sahour police called for reinforcement and Alsheik arrived from Bethlehem along with members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Apparatus. Bet Sahour Christians said Alsheik cursed them and that night, led by Palestinian Legislative Council member Metri Abu Enta, a petition was sent to Arafat calling for Alsheik's removal from his post.

Palestinian Police Inspector Gen. Ghazi Jabali also switched two other commanders. He sent the commander of the Bet Sahour police, Maj. Badr Nofel, to Bet Jallah and the latter, Maj. Hassan Abu Namus, was informed that he would head the Bet Sahour police.

Bet Sahour dignitaries said they regarded the transfers as the end of the episode. "We see no reason to continue to make an issue out of this," a dignitary, who did not want to be identified, said yesterday. "As far as we're concerned, the chapter is over."